1 **METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR CONTROLLING AND FILTERING FILES USING A**
2 **VIRUS-FREE CERTIFICATE**

3 *ABSTRACT*

4 The present invention is directed to computer viruses and more
5 particularly to a method and system for use in a virus-free
6 certificate firewall, of controlling and filtering files using
7 a virus-free certificate. An example embodiment of the method
8 comprises the steps of: receiving a file; if a virus-free
9 certificate (200) is required for the file: determining
10 whether the a virus-free certificate is already associated
11 with the file; if a virus-free certificate is already
12 associated with the file: authenticating the associated
13 virus-free certificate, said virus-free certificate comprising
14 a certificate signature; if the virus-free certificate is
15 authenticated, determining whether the file is virus-free or
16 not; if the file is virus-free, forwarding the file with the
17 associated virus-free certificate; if the virus-free
18 certificate is not authenticated or if no virus-free,
19 certificate is associated with the file; determining whether
20 the file is virus-free or not, if the file is virus-free,
21 associating with the file a new virus-free certificate; and
22 forwarding the file with the new virus-free certificate.

23 Figure 8